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(202) 785-9500  
FAX: (202) 835-0243

CELA

November 17, 2016

Via Email [CELA@fec.gov](mailto:CELA@fec.gov)

Federal Election Commission  
Office of Complaints Examination  
And Legal Administration  
Attn: Mary Beth deBeau, Paralegal  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 7148

Ms. DeBeau:

As counsel for Local Government Information Services, Inc. ("LGIS"), I hereby respond to the Complaint filed in the above designated MUR. As demonstrated below, the Complaint is erroneous in its conclusions, and therefore, can be quickly dismissed.

In the Complaint, Complainant Kim Savage makes speculative assertions and unsupported allegations. In addition, some of Ms. Savage's allegations are based upon false hearsay contained in newspaper articles.

Citing "publicly available news reports," the Complaint alleges that Liberty Principles PAC<sup>1</sup> distributed publications supporting Tonia Khouri's Congressional campaign to voters throughout the State of Illinois and that these publications constituted coordinated expenditures. Had Ms. Savage visited the website of some of the regional newspapers, she could have determined the publisher of the articles cited in her complaint, rather than relying upon outdated and erroneous news articles.

<sup>1</sup> The Complaint does not mention LGIS, but LGIS will address the allegations made as if it were named in the Complaint.

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Traditional news outlets have cut back or eliminated much of their local news coverage over the past ten years. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶ 5. LGIS is a for-profit media corporation which seeks to fill that void by producing online and print weekly community newspapers throughout Illinois. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶ 6. LGIS has been producing fourteen (14) weekly community newspapers since it incorporated in August 2016. *Id.* at ¶¶ 3, 5. LGIS has continued to produce weekly community newspapers since the election on November 8, 2016, and plans to continue to publish such newspapers. *Id.* at ¶ 3; Exhibit A (examples of articles published since November 8, 2016). LGIS is not owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶ 9.

The fourteen weekly newspapers are subscription based, and are also provided for free in news racks across the State of Illinois. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶ 7. Content is also available online for free. *Id.*

Ms. Savage has been the subject of articles appearing in LGIS' community newspapers, and now brings this Complaint in an attempt to limit the first amendment freedoms of LGIS to report the news. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶ 2. Ms. Savage's apparent politically motivated complaint demonstrates why the two-stage media exemption determination is mandated:

Freedom of the press is substantially eroded by investigation of the press, even if legal action is not taken following the investigation. Those concerns are particularly acute where a governmental entity is investigating the press in connection with the dissemination of political matter. These factors support the interpretation of the statutory exemption as barring even investigation of press activities which fall within the exemption.

*Reader's Digest Association v. FEC*, 509 F. Supp. 1210, 1214 (D. D.C. 1981).

The media exemption is to ensure that the FECA would not "limit or burden in any way the first amendment freedoms of the press; and would protect 'the unfettered right of the newspapers, TV networks, and other media to cover and comment on political campaigns.'" Advisory Opinion 2016-01 at 3 (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 93-1239, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. at 4 (1974) (emphasis added)). The Commission's regulations extend this exemption to qualified internet activities as well. *Id.* (citing 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.73, 100.132). The media exemption

is to be given a "broad" construction. *FEC v. Phillips Publishing*, 517 F. Supp. 1308, 1312 (D. D.C. 1981).

LGIS has not made a contribution or expenditure in connection with a federal election because it qualifies for the media exemptions from these definitions. First, LGIS is a press entity within the meaning of the Federal Election Campaign Act and Commission regulations. LGIS is not owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶¶1, 9. While Mr. Proft is the treasurer of a federal PAC, he does not have day-to-day oversight or operational control over LGIS. *Id.* at ¶1. Mr. Proft does not have day-to-day control over which stories are featured. *Id.* Ms. Savage, citing newspaper articles, alleges that Mr. Proft has made comments about the newspapers' "point of view," and that they are "designed to cover issues ignored by other media and also to influence policy and elections." Complaint at page 6. Without conceding the accuracy of these cited articles, discussing the newspapers' purpose (covering issues ignored by other media) does not prove control, but rather knowledge about the purpose of the newspapers. Ms. Savage also attempts to change the test by citing to hearsay regarding Mr. Proft's involvement in his *individual capacity* with a federal candidate's campaign, this is not the test. LGIS, therefore, is acting as a press entity and meets the first step of the media exemption test.

Second, LGIS is acting as a press entity when it publishes the community newspapers. There is no argument that community newspapers are not a legitimate press function. LGIS makes its community newspapers available to the general public. *Id.* at ¶¶6, 7. The community newspaper websites are viewable on the Internet to the general public and are akin to a periodical or news program distributed to the general public. *Id.*; FEC Advisory Opinion 2000-13 (iNEXTV) (concluding that website covered by media exemption was "viewable by the general public and akin to a periodical or news program distributed to the general public"). The print newspapers are available to the general public, and they are comparable in form to those ordinarily issued by the entity. LGIS currently publishes only community newspapers. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶¶6, 7. These printed newspapers are distributed for free through news racks, through subscriptions, as well as by mailing to residents of the communities. *Id.* at ¶7. That these newspapers are mailed to community residents without requesting them does not disqualify LGIS as a press entity. Many community newspapers are distributed for free to community residents without their request or subscription. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶13. A simple Internet search for "free" "community newspaper" yields many examples

of local community newspapers delivered to residents for free, without any action required by the resident. LGIS' method of distribution is similar to that of other press entities distributing community newspapers. *See* First General Counsel's Report at 15, MUR 6779 (Joel Gilbert, *et al.*) (citing at least one similarly situated media entity had engaged in similar conduct of free distribution). The Commission therefore has ample evidence upon which to conclude that LGIS' distribution of its community newspapers is a legitimate press activity. Going beyond the facts presented by LGIS would require "substantial investigation into the business judgment of the media entities involved, an inquiry at odds with the interests that the exemption protects." *Id.* (footnotes omitted).

Ms. Savage cites the fact that the newspapers started in an election year as proof that LGIS should not qualify as a press entity. The publication start date alone has no bearing on whether LGIS is a press entity. These community newspapers were published beginning in August 2016 and LGIS continues to publish these weekly community newspapers. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶3. The community newspapers are on-going publications whose purpose has nothing to do with the past election. LGIS is no less a press entity because it began its operations two and a half months before the general election. LGIS' distribution of local news content is at the core of its operations and its business model involves the regular and continued production and distribution of local and state news. *Id.* at ¶3. The format and distribution of the newspaper prior to the federal general election is the same as after the election. *Id.* at ¶12. LGIS continues to publish state and local news stories regarding elected officials. *Id.* LGIS continues to produce community newspapers on a regular basis which disseminate local news stories. *See* Advisory Opinion 2010-08 at 5.

While Ms. Savage makes a number of erroneous allegations about the substance of the community newspapers (e.g., they simply reproduce information already made available to the public), and ignores the journalistic content of the papers, the focus of the inquiry is on facilities and press functions and any inquiry or consideration of the substance of a communication is excluded in determining whether the media exemption applies. This is to protect the media from inquiries into the substance of or motivation for their content when the media exemption may apply.

While the Commission should not focus on the substance of the newspapers when determining whether the media exemption is applicable to LGIS, an important correction needs to be noted. Ms. Savage makes a baseless allegation that the community newspapers "simply reproduce information

already made available to the public, like meeting agendas.” Complaint at 4. Mainstream media also “reproduce information already made available to the public” in the form of meeting agendas, dates, times, sports team schedules, and the like. Notably, Ms. Savage conveniently ignores the thousands of other news stories published in the community newspapers. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶6; Exhibit A. For many Illinois communities, LocalLabs has produced more local government-related news stories over the last six months than have been produced in the last six years by traditional media. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶ 6. Its work for LGIS involves delivering hundreds and sometimes thousands of local news stories each week, on not just local government, but community events and sports. *Id.*; Exhibit A. Therefore, LGIS’ provision of local and state news stories both in print and on the Internet falls within its legitimate press function. *See* Advisory Opinion 2016-01 at 4.

LGIS creates content, but has also contracted with LocalLabs to provide local and state news in certain geographical areas in Illinois. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶7; Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶ 10. LGIS determines the geographical region of the created news content, and retains editorial control of that content. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶10. LocalLabs editors decide which local news, sports, school, business and community news to cover in these geographical areas. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶ 7. LocalLabs provides the local and state news content to LGIS for publishing on LGIS’ websites and insertion into print newspapers, including the Chambana Sun, DuPage Policy Journal, East Central Reporter, Kankakee Times, Lake County Gazette, McHenry Times, Metro East Sun, North Cook News, Rock Island Today, Sangamon Sun, Southwest Illinois News, West Central Reporter, and West Cook News. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶8. The fact that LGIS outsources some of the news content does not change the journalistic nature or form of the news content provided; such outsourcing is not dissimilar from the outsourcing to LocalLabs done by major newspapers and major media news corporations. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶¶3, 4, 7. LocalLabs has been producing news content for media organizations all over the world and has been doing so since 2007. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶ 3. LocalLabs has been covering local news in the Chicago area for clients, including the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times since 2007. *Id.* at ¶4.

Unlike other mainstream media, LGIS did not publish any content which contained an endorsement of any federal candidates. Declaration of Daniel Proft at ¶11. LocalLabs did not provide any content which contained express advocacy for or against federal candidates. Declaration of Brian Timpone at ¶12.

However, even if the community newspapers contained express advocacy or endorsements, the Commission has long recognized that an entity otherwise eligible for the media exemption "would not lose its eligibility merely because of a lack of objectivity in a news story, commentary, or editorial, even if the news story, commentary, or editorial expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for Federal office." Advisory Opinion 2005-16 at 6; Factual & Legal Analysis at 3, MUR 6579 (ABC News, Inc.) (July 5, 2012).

The Commission has amended its regulations to reflect the changing nature of media entities, particularly those that cover or carry news stories on the Internet. Advisory Opinion 2016-01 at 3. The regulations are meant to encompass a wide range of existing and developing technology. *Id.* (citing Internet Communications, 71 Fed. Reg. at 18608 n. 52). Similarly, the Commission needs to examine LGIS' legitimate press activities in light of other community newspapers and the changing nature of local news coverage. LGIS is not required to meet Ms. Savage's outdated, traditional definition of a newspaper. Moreover, the Commission must exclude Ms. Savage's allegations regarding any communications issued prior to August 2016 as those communications were not published by LGIS and have no bearing on LGIS' media exemption.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission should conclude that because LGIS is a press entity, is not owned or controlled by any candidate, political party, or political committee, and is engaged in its legitimate press function in providing news content to its readers, costs incurred by LGIS in covering or carrying news stories about federal candidates, such as those subject to this Complaint, do not constitute "expenditures" or "contributions" under the FECA and Commission regulations. See Advisory Opinion 2016-01 at 4. Because LGIS has amply demonstrated it meets the press exemption, the Commission may not consider Ms. Savage's unsupported and erroneous allegations regarding coordination.

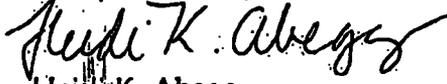
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<sup>2</sup> The Commission should exclude from consideration Ms. Savage's reliance on all articles published prior to August 2016, including but not limited to those cited in footnotes 11- 16, 18, 24-26 of her Complaint.

Letter to Office of Complaints Examination  
Page 7

As a result, Local Government Information Services, Inc. respectfully requests that the Complaint be dismissed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
Heidi K. Abegg

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## DECLARATION OF DANIEL PROFT

State of Illinois

Being first duly sworn, Daniel Proft states as follows:

1. I am a part owner of Local Government Information Services, Inc. and have knowledge of the operations of this corporation. I do not have day-to-day oversight or operational control over the corporation. I do not have day-to-day control over which news stories are featured in LGIS newspapers.

2. I am familiar with the printed publications that are the subject of Ms. Savage's Complaint. Ms. Savage has been the subject of articles which have appeared in LGIS community newspapers.

3. Local Government Information Services, Inc. is a for-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Illinois on August 15, 2016 and is a continuing news organization. Local Government Information Services, Inc. has continued, and plans to continue, weekly publication of news after November 8, 2016. Attached is merely one story (out of many) published since November 8, 2016. LGIS' distribution of local news content is at the core of its operations and its business model involves the regular and continued production and distribution of local and state news.

4. On the "About Us" webpage of the DuPage Policy Journal, it states that the DuPage Policy Journal is a product of LGIS – Local Government Information Services. All of the 13 partner websites contain this language.

5. On the "Contact" webpage of the DuPage Policy Journal, it provides an email address and a phone number for general inquiries, as well as a separate email address for receipt of press releases and news. All of the 14 partner websites contain this language. There is also a link to subscribe to the DuPage Policy Journal. Many of the 14 partner websites contain this subscription link.

6. Local Government Information Services, Inc. is a for-profit media corporation which produces weekly community newspapers throughout Illinois. It has both online and print distribution. At this point, Local Government Information Services only publishes online and print community newspapers; it does not publish other materials.

7. The weekly newspapers are subscription based, and are also provided for free in news racks across the State of Illinois. Content is also available for free online.

8. The newspapers cover local news, sports, school, business and community news and state level politics and policy.

9. Local Government Information Services, Inc. is not owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate.

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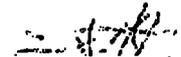
10. Local Government Information Services, Inc. produces original content, curates content from third-party sources, and also contracts with vendors, including Local Labs, LLC, which produces content on its behalf for specified geographical locations. Local Government Information Services, Inc. retains editorial control of the content.

11. Local Government Information Services, Inc. did not endorse any federal candidates in the 2016 general election.

12. The form and content of the weekly community newspapers has remained constant since publication first began in August 2016. Local Government Information Services, Inc. produced news content regarding Republican and Democrat state and federal candidates in Illinois. Local Government Information Services, Inc. continues to publish state and local news stories regarding elected officials.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 17th day of November, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Proft

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission expires:



11/17/2016 10:04:11 AM

## DECLARATION OF BRIAN TIMPONE

State of Illinois

Being first duly sworn, Brian Timpone states as follows:

1. I am founder and CEO of Locality Labs LLC, known as LocalLabs, and have knowledge of the operations of this organization.
2. LocalLabs is a for-profit commercial provider of news content to media companies and marketers. Tribune Media is a minority shareholder of the company.
3. LocalLabs produces news content for media organizations all over the world, including major metropolitan newspapers, and has been doing so since 2007.
4. It is common for news organizations to outsource some of their news production, including coverage of regional and community news. LocalLabs has been covering local news in the Chicago area-- for clients including the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times-- since 2007.
5. LocalLabs provides original community news, including, but not limited to, news about local sporting events, real estate, and local government meetings. Traditional news outlets have cut back or eliminated much of this news coverage over the past ten years; LocalLabs fills the void.
6. For many Illinois communities, LocalLabs has produced more local government-related news stories over the last six months than have been produced in the last six years by traditional media. Its work for LGIS involves delivering hundreds and sometimes thousands of local news stories each week, on not just local government but community events and sports.
7. Local Government Information Services, Inc. contracted with LocalLabs to provide local and state news in certain geographical areas in Illinois. LocalLabs editors decide which local news, sports, school, business and community news to cover in these geographical areas.
8. The local and state news content is provided to LGIS for publishing on its web sites and insertion into print newspapers, including the Chambana Sun, DuPage Policy Journal, East Central Reporter, Kankakee Times, Lake County Gazette, McHenry Times, Metro East Sun, North Cook News, Rock Island Today, Sangamon Sun, Southwest Illinois News, West Central Reporter, and West Cook News.
9. LocalLabs is not owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate.
10. I am familiar with the printed publications that are the subject of Ms. Savage's Complaint.

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11. As is typical of other news organizations, "newsmakers" (including non-profits, governments, and political candidates) send LocalLabs press releases. LocalLabs has received press releases from federal candidates of the Republican and Democrat parties. Candidates of both political parties have retweeted LocalLabs news content. LocalLabs does not coordinate its articles or content with candidates, political committees, or parties.
12. None of the content LocalLabs provided to its client LGIS contained any express advocacy for or against federal candidates.
13. It is an industry-standard practice for community newspapers to be mailed or delivered to residents of a community without their request.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 17 th day of November, 2016.

  
Brian Lampone

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17 day of November, 2016.

  
Notary Public

My Commission expires: Jan 8, 2017





[Home \(/\)](#) » [Stories \(/stories\)](#) » [2016 \(/stories/2016\)](#) » [November \(/stories/2016/nov\)](#)

## Despite criticism, Illinois voters overwhelmingly approve Safe Roads Amendment

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (/STORIES/TAG/8-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT)

DuPage Policy Journal (/author/dupage-policy-journal) | Nov 16, 2016 (/stories/2016/nov)



Illinois' Constitution will be amended to include the so-called "Safe Roads Amendment," meant to allocate billions for transportation projects; but opponents say it will cause financial strain in an already financially strained state, after voters passed the measure during Tuesday's general election.

Illinois voters overwhelmingly approved the measure to add Section 11 to Article IX of the state's Constitution. The amendment required the approval of 60 percent of voters, or of more than 50 percent of all ballots cast, to pass. On Tuesday, about 80 percent of Illinois voters -- 3,690,927 yes to 985,245 no ([https://ballotpedia.org/Illinois\\_Transportation\\_Taxes\\_and\\_Fees\\_Lockbox\\_Amendment\\_\(2016\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Illinois_Transportation_Taxes_and_Fees_Lockbox_Amendment_(2016)))-- voted in favor of the measure.

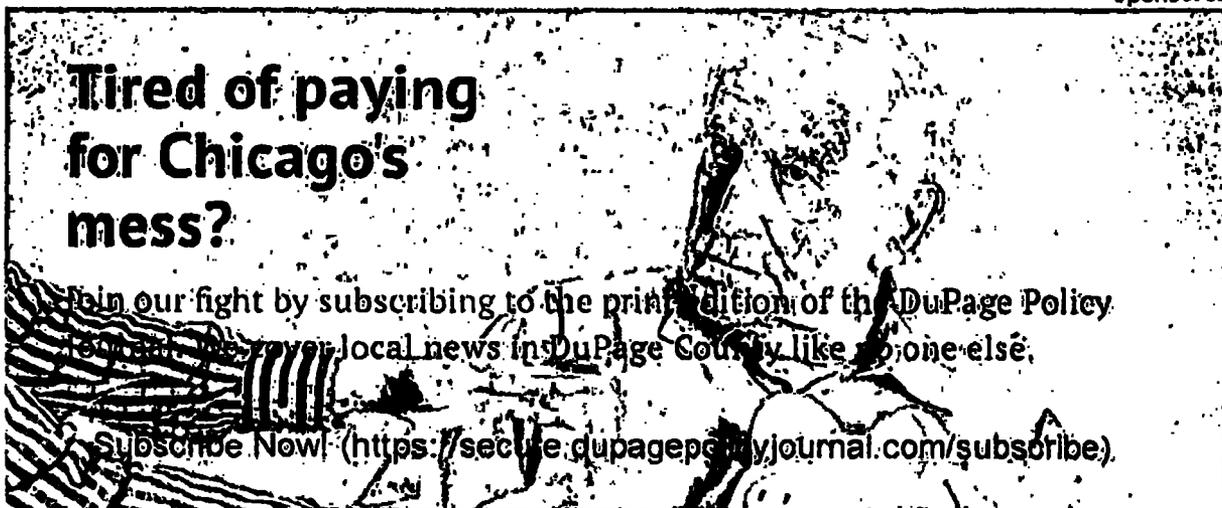
Another name for the measure has been the "lockbox amendment" because of its roots in the uneasy pre-election truce between Gov. Bruce Rauner and House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago). Madigan's public support has been seen as key to getting the amendment on the ballot for Tuesday's election and for its eventual passage. Meanwhile, Rauner didn't publicly support the measure but he raised no objections to it.

The amendment's opponents included editorial boards of major Chicago newspapers, who recommended the measure be voted down and complaining that voters had been misled into believing the amendment has the approval of rank-and-file state residents.

However, the amendment did have widespread bipartisan support, in sharp contrast to other proposed amendments including term limits and redistricting that failed to make it onto Tuesday's ballot. That kind of support came about because state politicians realized they would not be affected by the measure, Pat Hughes, founder of the Illinois Opportunity Project, said during a conservative radio show appearance before the election.

"I think it is because you're talking about a couple of different things," Hughes told Dan Proft on the Illinois Rising radio show. "The remap and term limit is sort of politics. It's the nature of politics. Whereas, this road-fund situation is directly to the pocketbooks. It speaks directly to what people worry about every day: where their money is being spent, whether they are going to have good roads to drive on -- things of that nature."

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Local Government (/stories/tag/8-local-government) Real Es

Hughes said lawmakers are more likely to vote "yes" on an amendment that will not affect their position as lawmakers.

Schools (/stories/tag/34-schools) Sports (/stories/tag/53-spc

"(As a lawmaker), I'm not going to term-limit myself, and I am certainly not going to remap myself out of my seat but, hey, if I can get some points (by giving) out contracts and everything else, well then that is a different scenario and that makes good sense to me," Hughes said.

The Sun-Times, citing unnamed sources, claimed the amendment was a joint effort by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association.

The measure was part of a joint resolution (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09900HC0036&GA=99&SessionId=88&DocTypeId=HJRCA&LegID=91182&DocNum=36&GAID=13&Session=>) introduced in April 2015 by then-Rep. Frank Mautino, who now is Illinois Auditor General. The measure spent about a year in the House Rules Committee before it was read, was amended and enjoyed the sponsorship of dozens of state lawmakers.

The measure was adopted by the House and Senate this past May and added to the November General Election ballot.

### Want to get notified whenever we write about Illinois Opportunity Project ?

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#### ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS STORY

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**Illinois Opportunity Project** (/organizations/645084285-illinois-opportunity-project)  
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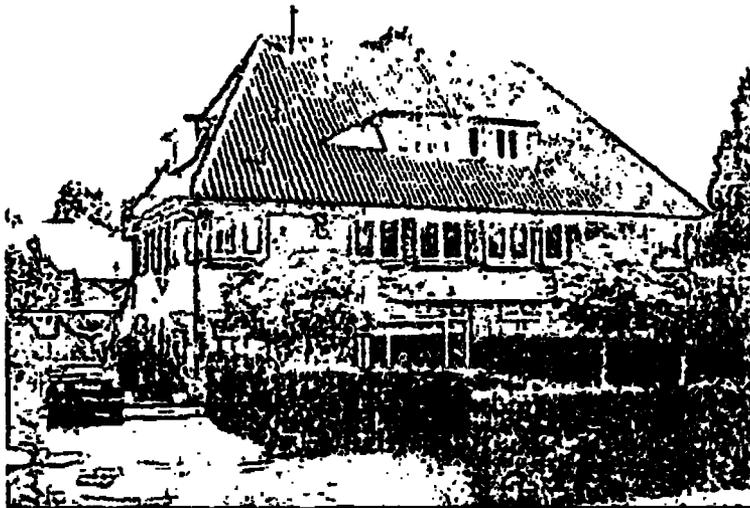
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**MORE NEWS**

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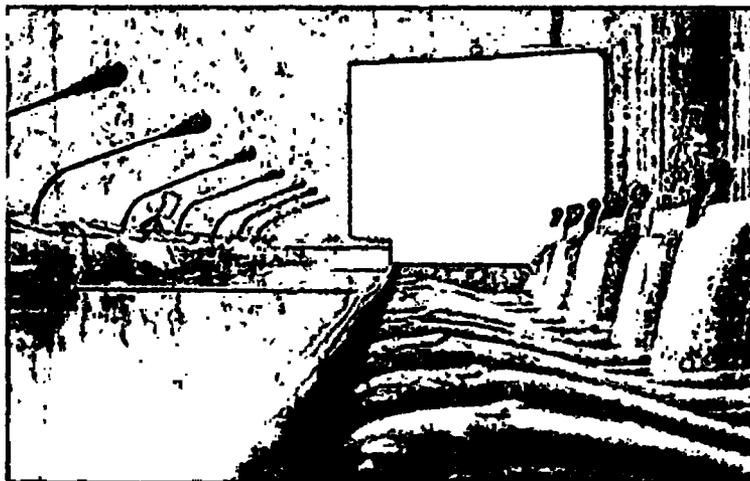


(/stories/511045687-brian-m-decl-berg-trustee-purchases-1217-farmwood-drive-addison)

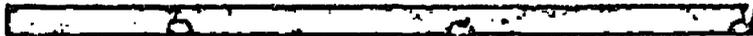
**REAL ESTATE** (/STORIES/TAG/10-REAL-ESTATE)

**Brian M. Decl Berg (trustee) Purchases 1217 Farmwood Drive, Addison** (/stories /511045687-brian-m-decl-berg-trustee-purchases-1217-farmwood-drive-addison)

Nov 16, 2016







(/stories/511006788-westmont-environmental-improvement-commission-provides-event-updates) Local Government (/stories/tag/8-local-government) Real Es

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (/STORIES/TAG/8-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT) Schools (/stories/tag/34-schools) Sports (/stories/tag/53-spc

**Westmont Environmental Improvement Commission provides event updates (/stories /511006788-westmont-environmental-improvement-commission-provides-event-updates)**

Nov 16, 2016

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(/stories/511002650-westmont-environmental-commission-creates-climate-plan-timeline)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (/STORIES/TAG/8-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT)

**Westmont environmental commission creates climate plan timeline (/stories /511002650-westmont-environmental-commission-creates-climate-plan-timeline)**

Nov 16, 2016



HEADLINE



(/stories/511045502-onu-men-s-soccer-team-nets-several-postseason-awards)

SPORTS (/STORIES/TAG/53-SPORTS)

Brent Zell (/author/brent-zell) | Nov 16, 2016 (/stories/2016/nov)

*ONU men's soccer team nets several  
 postseason awards (/stories/511045502-  
 onu-men-s-soccer-team-nets-several-  
 postseason-awards)*

The Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) men's soccer team recently was showered with postseason honors from the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW), according to onutigers.com.

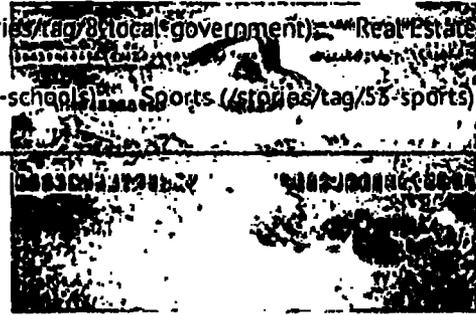
FEATURED

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SPORTS (/STORIES/TAG/53-SPORTS)

**Kankakee Times** | Nov 11, 2016 (/stories/2016/nov) | Business (/stories/tag/9-business) | Community (/stories/tag/12-community)

Olivet Nazarene star initially embraced swimming for other than sporting reasons (/stories/511043643-olivet-nazarene-star-initially-embraced-swimming-for-other-than-sporting-reasons)



SPORTS (/STORIES/TAG/53-SPORTS)

Brent Zell (/author/brent-zell) | Nov 11, 2016 (/stories/2016/nov)

Two Olivet Nazarene football players named to CoSIDA All-District Team (/stories/511042976-two-olivet-nazarene-football-players-named-to-cosida-all-district-team)



LOCAL GOVERNMENT (/STORIES/TAG/8-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT)

Kankakee Times (/author/kankakee-times) | Nov 7, 2016 (/stories/2016/nov)

Analyst: Legislators love constitutional amendments -- that don't affect them (/stories/511041760-analyst-legislators-love-constitutional-amendments-that-dont-affect-them)



LOCAL GOVERNMENT (/STORIES/TAG/8-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT)

Kankakee Times (/author/kankakee-times) | Nov 7, 2016 (/stories/2016/nov)

Tribune gives Duckworth low marks for tenure at state veterans agency (/stories/511041680-tribune-gives-duckworth-low-marks-for-tenure-at-state-veterans-agency)

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**Kankakee Times**

- [Business \(/stories/tag/9-business\)](#)
- [Community \(/stories/tag/12-community\)](#)
- [Local Government \(/stories/tag/8-local-government\)](#)
- [Real Estate \(/stories/tag/13-real-estate\)](#)
- [Schools \(/stories/tag/34-schools\)](#)
- [Sports \(/stories/tag/53-sports\)](#)

### TRACKER

*[Bradley Insurance and Finance Committee considers demolition bids \(/stories/511031923-bradley-insurance-and-finance-committee-considers-demolition-bids\)](#)*

*[Kankakee County Public Safety Committee to hear update on fee study \(/stories/511019362-kankakee-county-public-safety-committee-to-hear-update-on-fee-study\)](#)*

*[River Valley Metro Mass Transit District Board of Trustees considers filing in DOAP Grant Agreement case \(/stories/511018875-river-valley-metro-mass-transit-district-board-of-trustees-considers-filing-in-doap-grant-agreement-case\)](#)*

*[Kankakee County Planning, Zoning and Agriculture Committee to review variance for sign size \(/stories/511019166-kankakee-county-planning-zoning-and-agriculture-committee-to-review-variance-for-sign-size\)](#)*

*[Manteno Police Pension Board to consider potential investment options \(/stories/511019161-manteno-police-pension-board-to-consider-potential-investment-options\)](#)*

*[Manteno Committee of the Whole to review industrial use revisions \(/stories/511019160-manteno-committee-of-the-whole-to-review-industrial-use-revisions\)](#)*

### LATEST NEWS



*[\(/stories/511045547-critics-say-teacher-pension-pickups-oppress-taxpayers\)](#)*



*[\(/stories/511045513-report-says-snap-unequally-benefits-illinois-families-of-illegal-immigrants\)](#)*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (/STORIES/TAG/8-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT)**

1005441000

[Home \(/\)](#) » [Stories \(/stories\)](#) » [2016 \(/stories/2016\)](#) » [November \(/stories/2016/nov\)](#)

## School bond referendum fails to pass by margin of 118 votes

[SCHOOLS \(/STORIES/TAG/34-SCHOOLS\)](#)

[West Cook News Reports \(/author/west-cook-news-reports\)](#) | [Nov 14, 2016 \(/stories/2016/nov\)](#)



A bond issue on the ballot in Oak Park and River Forest was voted down by a margin of 118 votes.

The question considered by voters was a bond issue of up to \$25 million by Oak Park and River Forest High School District No. 200. The bonds were discussed by the board in August, with a plan unanimously approved that specified improvements the funds would cover.

The plan called for an increased number of classroom spaces, a 40-meter pool to replace two 88-year-old pools and facility parking. Planned improvements were also to alleviate health and safety challenges found in locker rooms. The plan was budgeted at \$44.5 million to be paid through the bonds and \$20 million in cash

The Cook County Board of Elections reports the majority voted “no” by a 0.34 percent margin. Following the results, the board will now start anew with ideas on how to make improvements within the district. The community will be made aware of any developments on the project.

Those wishing to learn more about the project can visit [facilities.oprfhs.org](http://facilities.oprfhs.org).

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## State places Maercker SD 60 on 'Financial Recognition' list

[SCHOOLS \(/STORIES/TAG/34-SCHOOLS\)](#)

[Local Labs News Service \(/author/local-labs-news-service\)](#) | Nov 13, 2016 [\(/stories/2016/nov\)](#)



The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has placed Maercker SD 60 on its "Financial Recognition" list.

ISBE rates school districts on their fund balance and expenditure-to-revenue ratios, days of cash on hand, and percentage of remaining short- and long-term borrowing ability.

Of Illinois' 857 school districts, 568, or 66 percent, earned the state's 'Financial

Recognition" designation, suggesting they are fiscally sound.

 **DuPage Policy Journal** (/) Business (/stories/tag/9-business) Community (/stories/tag/

The other 34 percent statewide, or 289 districts, received lower marks from ISBE, suggesting they need work:

Local Government (/stories/tag/8-local-government) Real Es Schools (/stories/tag/34-schools) Sports (/stories/tag/53-spt

• 196 (23 percent) are under "Financial Review"

• 61 (7 percent) were given an "Early Warning"

• 32 (4 percent) are under "Financial Watch," including Chicago Public Schools and seven others in the Metro-East.

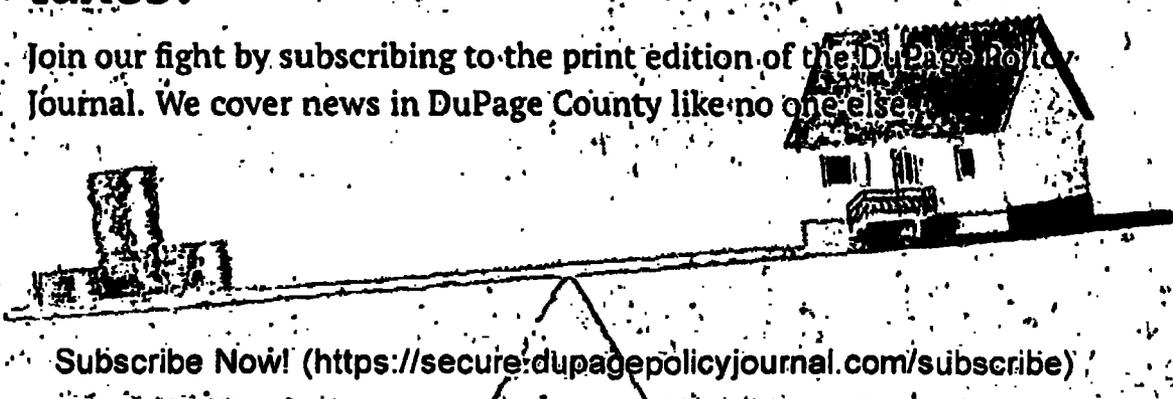
In Dupage County, 38 of the county's 42 school districts (90.48 percent) earned the "Financial Recognition" designation.

CHSD 99 was the only district placed under "Early Warning."

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Three districts -- Bensenville SD 2, Cass SD 63 and Hinsdale.Twp HSD 86 -- were placed under "Financial Review."

ISBE reports that districts are increasingly "borrowing to obtain needed cash flow" and "continue to issue long-term debt to sustain day-to-day operations."

Schools are "continuing to break even or are spending more than they are

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realizing in revenue," the report says.

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Illinois public school districts issued \$307.2 million in long-term debt in fiscal year 2015 versus \$356.5 million in fiscal year 2014. In 2015, 499 -- or 58 percent -- spent more money than they took in, borrowing or using taxpayer-provided reserves to cover the deficit.

ISBE's "School District Financial Profile" was first issued in 2003.

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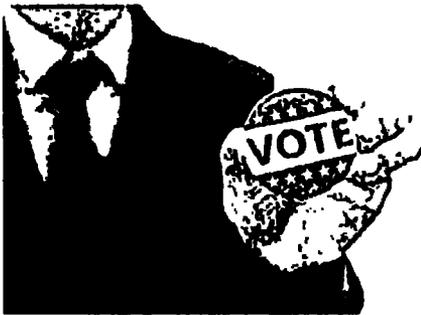
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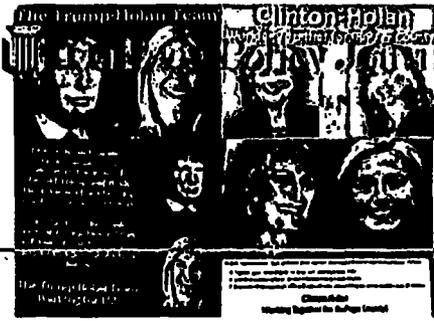
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## Elgin Community College Theatre presents 'Steel Magnolias'

[COMMUNITY \(/STORIES/TAG/37-COMMUNITY\)](#)

[Carol Ostrow \(/author/carol-ostrow\)](#) | Nov 3, 2016 [\(/stories/2016/nov\)](#)



 Contributed photo

Featuring a diverse cast whose members enjoyed immersing themselves in the atmosphere of Southern U.S. culture during the 1980s, Elgin Community College Theatre presents, as its fall production, "Steel Magnolias" Nov. 4-13.

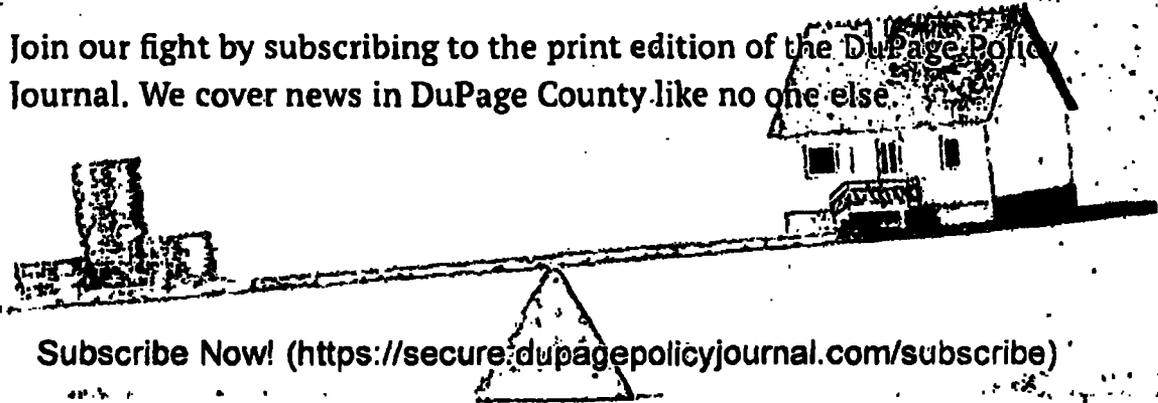
Performances will be held at the ECC Arts Center, located in Building H on the Spartan Drive Campus, 1700 Spartan Drive, in Elgin. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. on Sundays.

(They) are all embracing the challenges of learning the Southern dialect and culture, as well as the workings of a 1980s beauty parlor, director Susan Robinson, who serves as ECC theater instructor and program coordinator, said. "They are having the time of their lives."

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Based on a true story and set in a Louisiana salon of the '80s, "Steel Magnolias" features a cohesive group of strong women who prove the importance of community.

"It is about loss ... while recognizing that loss is just another part of life," Robinson said. "And love is how we get through it."

Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$9 for students and seniors, and are available online at [tickets.elgin.edu](http://tickets.elgin.edu) or at the ECC Arts Center box office from noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Alternatively, theatergoers can call 847-622-0300. All major credit cards are accepted.

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## Doctor to provide pill 'toolkit' at upcoming library presentation

COMMUNITY (/STORIES/TAG/37-COMMUNITY)

Rock Island Today Reports (/author/rock-island-today-reports) | Sep 18, 2016 (/stories/2016/sep)



📷 Doctor to provide pill 'toolkit' at upcoming library presentation | Courtesy of Shutterstock

Rock Island native and author Dr. Cathy Rosenbaum will speak on integrated health and wellness 2 p.m. Sept. 23 at Rock Island's main library branch to help residents reassess non-vitamin supplements.

As a clinical pharmacist and holistic health advocate, Rosenbaum wrote "Don't Sweep it Under the Drug," a guide to help readers evaluate the combination of pills and supplements in their medicine cabinets, how they interact with one

another, and whether they are all necessary.



**Rock Island Today** (/) [Business \(/stories/tag/9-business\)](/stories/tag/9-business) [Community \(/stories/tag/37-community\)](/stories/tag/37-community)

Having traveled extensively in China, she researched global health care traditions and herbal medicine and has combined what she learned with [Local Government \(/stories/tag/8-local-government\)](/stories/tag/8-local-government) [Real Estate \(/stories/tag/37-real-estate\)](/stories/tag/37-real-estate)

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The book draws on the writer's pharmacology background and also imparts an open-minded approach to health. While the author does not shy away from prescription medicine, she urges people to create a balanced lifestyle approach incorporating sleep, exercise, whole foods and stress management techniques into their daily routines.

The presentation is free, open to the public and requires no pre-registration.

Now an Ohio resident, Rosenbaum is the founder and CEO of a health care consulting firm, RX Integrative Solutions. She has a doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati as well as an MBA and registered pharmacist (RPh) and health coaching (CHC) certifications.

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